

Top Secret

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY CABLE

Thursday 15 September 1977

CG NIDC 77-215C

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NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION
Unauthorized Disclosure Subject to Criminal Sanctions

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National Intelligence Daily Cable for Thursday, 15 September 1977.

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The NID Cable is for the purpose of informing senior US officials.

CONTENTS

FRANCE: Left Alliance Dissension

Page 1

25X1

PORTUGAL-AZORES: Violence Resumes

Page 4

25X1

BRIEFS:

Page 7

25X1

Norway

25X1

United Kingdom

25X1

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FRANCE: Left Alliance Dissension

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[redacted] *The French Left Alliance--Communists, Socialists, and Left Radicals--failed yesterday to reach common ground in their summit meeting to revise their Common Program for Governing, according to press reports.*

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[redacted] After a meeting of 10 hours, Communist leader Marchais told the press that the party leaders had made considerable progress and indicated that he would be willing to resume the talks today.

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[redacted] Shortly before the meeting ended, however, left Radical chief Fabre walked out and announced that further talks could not occur without a "period of reflection." He said he would not attend a meeting today. Socialist leader Mitterand reportedly will announce his position today after his meeting last night with members of his party.

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[redacted] The Communists and Socialists have been quarreling bitterly in public about such issues as defense, wage guidelines, divisions of responsibility in a left government, and nationalizations. Fabre said he quit the talks because of Communist demands for "a la carte nationalizations" that he and his party believe are unacceptable to the public.

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[redacted] //A hard-line group in the Politburo apparently forced party leader Georges Marchais to adopt his current uncompromising position in the propaganda war with the Socialists concerning the revision of the left's Common Program. The group initiated the increased attacks on the Socialists while Marchais was on vacation in August. Marchais again raised the level of the attack on his return to Paris.//

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[redacted] //Communist Party members have suggested that Marchais' tenure as party leader might be in doubt, especially if the left fails to win a majority in the March 1978 legislative election.//

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[redacted] We believe that the Communists' attack on the Socialists in 1975, ostensibly because of the Socialists' attitude toward the Portuguese left, reflected similar pressures on Marchais.//

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[redacted] //Party hard-liners are worried about the dangers of Marchais' more flexible line; some assert they are willing to "accept electoral defeat rather than compromise the integrity of the party."

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[redacted] //We believe, however, that a consensus still exists within the party that the opportunity of achieving even minimum goals in a leftist government is worth the price of doing what is necessary to sustain cooperation with the Socialists. On the other hand, Marchais' position and his line would indeed be threatened if the left were to fail to win a majority in the election and the Socialists made decisive inroads into the Communist share of the votes.//

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PORTUGAL-AZORES: Violence Resumes

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[] Azorean separatists are again turning to violence to protest what they consider the poor performance of the regional government and continuing Portuguese "occupation" of the archipelago. Four bombs have been set off during the past two weeks, each apparently designed more to make a political point than to injure. The centrist regional government is caught in the middle; it does not want to incur local disapproval by chastising the separatists but also does not want further strains in its relations with Lisbon.

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[] Two of the four bombs were targeted against Lisbon's representative, General Galvao de Figueiredo, and one against the Lisbon-appointed military governor of the Azores. Two little-known groups, the Azores Revolutionary Army and the Operational Movement for the Liberation of the Azores, have claimed responsibility for three of the four blasts.

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[] The groups appear to have strategies similar to the Azorean Liberation Front, a conservative organization formed in opposition to leftist military rulers in Lisbon in 1974 and 1975. Front leader Almeida told the US consul in Ponta Delgada last week that his group is planning a campaign of violence to further its objective of gaining immediate independence from Portugal.

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[] The Front could be trying to cover its activities by using other names, but there is some evidence of splits within the separatist movement. The Front's right wing is rumored to have broken with Almeida over his efforts to obtain Arab financial support for Azorean independence.

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[] The two new groups, if they are in fact separate from the Front, appear to share the Front's belief that Figueiredo, who has done little to improve relations between Lisbon and the Azores, is a particularly vulnerable target.

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[] According to Almeida, the Front is looking forward to Figueiredo's moving from Sao Miguel to Terceira to prove to him that separatist sentiment is not confined to Sao Miguel. One of the blasts last weekend badly damaged Figueiredo's new residence on Terceira.

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[] Almeida said his group has kept a low profile since June so the islanders could see for themselves that the Azorean Regional Government is incapable of handling autonomy and that it merely serves as a cover for continuing domination by Portugal. The Front probably realizes that most Azoreans prefer autonomy to independence for the time being but hopes to attract local support by provoking Lisbon into taking repressive measures.

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[] Separatist violence will further strain relations between the regional government and the authorities in Lisbon, and make it even more difficult for regional officials to obtain the autonomy they want. The Portuguese Government is allowing the Azoreans some degree of self-management, such as keeping tax revenues in the islands, but is reluctant to give the islanders all the power they want.

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[] Regional President Mota Amaral last week was optimistic that the central government would become more receptive to his demands. The regional government does not want to be too critical of the mainland in order not to damage its relationship with President Eanes, whom Azoreans consider more trustworthy than the Socialist Prime Minister.

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[] The understanding between the Socialist government in Lisbon and the centrist Social Democrats, who control the Azorean Government, may help prevent Lisbon from over-reacting to separatist troublemaking but will have little effect on politics at the regional level.

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[] Azorean Socialists have extended peace feelers to the local Social Democrats, but Mota Amaral has made it clear that he has no interest in a coalition with the local Socialist Party. He will accept dialogue and cooperation with the Socialists only to gain more autonomy for the islands.

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[] The two parties in the Azores are likely to continue to differ over the timing of a formal statute of autonomy. The Social Democrats want to defer the final definition of the relationship between the regional and central governments until the Azoreans have more governing experience. They suspect that the Socialists' call for the statute is an effort to limit the islands' area of authority. []

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BRIEFS

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Norway

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[] Norway's see-saw election results tilted for a second time in Prime Minister Nordli's favor when discovery of 50 miscounted ballots gave the Labor Party's ally, the Socialist Left Party, a parliamentary seat previously allotted to the Conservative Party. Labor's 76 seats, plus the Socialist Left's two, give Nordli a one-seat edge in the new parliament. The Socialist Left will not be invited to participate in a new government but is expected to support a minority Labor government.

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[] The new tally gives the Conservatives 41 seats, the Christian People's Party 22, the Center Party 12, and the Liberals two for a total of 77 nonsocialist seats. Further changes are not expected but are still possible; final confirmation of the outcome is not due until next week. []

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United Kingdom

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[REDACTED] //The UK recorded a \$245-million trade surplus in August, its first in more than five years. The surplus reflected a sharp drop in imports--most notably of diamonds, ships, and aircraft--and a small rise in exports. Britain's favorable trade balance and continued surpluses in tourism, banking, and shipping led to an overall current-account surplus in August of \$550 million.//

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[REDACTED] //Last month's figures indicate that London probably will achieve its goal of a balanced current-account this year. London expects about a \$3-billion current-account surplus next year as more North Sea oil is exported. [REDACTED]

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